

**DIVORCE - WITHOUT MINOR
CHILDREN
For Petitioner Only**

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FILE THIS PAGE

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To file for Divorce

Part 1: Petition and First Court Papers
(INSTRUCTION PACKET)



SELF-SERVICE CENTER

“DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (DIVORCE) WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN” FOR PETITIONER ONLY

PART 1 -- PETITION AND FIRST COURT PAPERS

This packet contains general information and instructions about filing a divorce petition for a non-covenant marriage and other papers when there are no minor children. Be sure the documents are in the following order:

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SELF-SERVICE CENTER

INSTRUCTIONS: HOW TO FILL OUT “*PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (DIVORCE)-- WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN*” PAPERS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Domestic violence can be part of any marriage. Domestic violence includes **physical violence**, such as hitting, slapping, pushing or kicking, OR **threats** of physical violence, directed against you and/or your child(ren). Domestic violence also includes **verbal abuse** used to control you and/or your child(ren).

Court documents request your address and phone number. If you are a victim of domestic violence, and you do not want your address to be known in order to protect yourself or your children from further violence, you must file a “*Petition for an Order of Protection*” and ask that your address not be disclosed on court papers. With that Order, you do **not** need to put your address and phone number on your divorce papers, just write "protected" in the space where the court asks you for this information. You must tell the Clerk of the Court your address and phone number as soon as possible.

FAMILY COURT / SENSITIVE DATA COVER SHEET (All Forms: TYPE OR PRINT IN BLACK INK)

- Write in the information requested about the petitioner, and the respondent.
- **DO NOT INCLUDE MAILING ADDRESS ON THIS FORM IF REQUESTING ADDRESS PROTECTION.**
- **Case Type:** Mark only one box that matches the legal procedure for which you are filing the documents in this packet: **Dissolution (Divorce).**
- **Interpreter:** Check “yes” or “no” to indicate whether an interpreter is needed. If “yes”, write in what language(s).
- **No additional copies needed. Do NOT serve this document on the other party.**

SUMMONS AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION:

Fill in the following information: Your name; street address (if not protected); city, state and zip code; telephone number; ATLAS number; Attorney Bar Number if you are represented by an attorney; then check the box to say whether you are representing yourself or not. Then print the name of Petitioner (your name); name of Respondent (your spouse's name). You will have an ATLAS number ONLY if you receive, or have received, AFDC or other public benefits for the children who are common to you and your spouse. **DO NOT** fill out the rest of the form, except on Page 2 of the “*Preliminary Injunction*” where you must provide a description of the other party. The Clerk of Court will complete it later.

“*PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (DIVORCE) WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN*”

- A. Use this form **ONLY** if you are getting a divorce and there are no children under the age of 18, common to you and your spouse, whether by birth or adoption, AND you do **not** have a “covenant” marriage. Make sure your form is titled “*PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (DIVORCE) WITHOUT CHILDREN.*”

- B.** In the top left corner of the first page, fill out the following: your name (if you are the person filling out the petition and filing the petition with the court); your address (if not protected); your city, state and zip code; your telephone number; and your ATLAS number, if you are receiving or have received AFDC from the Arizona Department of Economic Security; Attorney Bar Number, if represented by a lawyer; then check the box to say whether you are representing yourself or not.
- C.** Fill in your name in the space that says "Name of Petitioner." Remember, you will be the PETITIONER through the whole case. (This includes any emergency petitions, temporary petitions, and post-divorce decree petitions.) In the space that says "Name of Respondent," fill in the name of your spouse. Your spouse will be the RESPONDENT for the rest of this case. (This includes any emergency petitions, temporary petitions, and post-divorce decree petitions.)
- D.** Leave line blank for Family Court Case Number. When you file your papers, you will receive a case number from the Clerk of the Court.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 1. INFORMATION ABOUT YOU, THE PETITIONER.** Fill in the Petitioner's name, address (if not protected), date of birth, occupation, and length of time in Arizona.
- 2. INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE, THE RESPONDENT.** Fill in the Respondent's name, address, (if you know it) date of birth, social security number, occupation, and length of time in Arizona.
- 3. INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE.** Fill in the date you were married, and the city and state where you were married. If you do not know this information, and you were married in Maricopa County, you may get a copy of your marriage license from the Clerk of the Court at 601 West Jackson Street in downtown Phoenix. If you were married in another county in Arizona, go to the Clerk of the Superior Court at the county seat where you were married.

NEXT: Check the boxes to indicate *all three* statements are TRUE. If *any* of these statements are not true, you may not use these forms or you may not qualify for a divorce in Arizona at this time. If all three boxes are not checked, your case may not proceed.

Check the first box to indicate that you do not have a "covenant" marriage.

Check the second box to indicate your marriage is irretrievably broken.

Check the third box to indicate you have been to marital counseling – or that it would not help.

NOTE: To have a "Covenant Marriage", both husband and wife would have had to:

1. sign papers requesting to have a covenant marriage or to convert to a covenant marriage,
2. attend pre-marital counseling (unless converting an existing marriage to a covenant marriage, **AND**
3. Your marriage license would say "Covenant Marriage".

If you still have questions about whether you have a "covenant" marriage, contact a lawyer for help.

"Irretrievably broken" means that your marriage is broken beyond repair and there is no chance of getting back together with your spouse.

- 4. 90-DAY REQUIREMENT.** This tells the court that you **OR** your spouse have lived in Arizona, or been stationed in Arizona while in the Armed Forces, for at least 90 (ninety) days prior to the day you filed the **"Petition for Dissolution of Marriage (Divorce) Without Children."** Before you file for divorce, this **MUST** be true. **IF IT IS NOT TRUE, YOU CANNOT FILE FOR DIVORCE UNTIL IT IS TRUE.**

INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY AND DEBT:

READ ME!!!!!! The information you give in paragraphs 5 and 6 tells the court about your property and debts, and how you think your property and debts should be divided. Community property is generally any property you and your spouse purchased during your marriage or paid for during the marriage, no matter WHO uses the property or WHO paid the money. Unless property was a gift or an inheritance, or acquired after the Petition for Dissolution was served on the Respondent, generally all property gotten (acquired) during the marriage is community property, and both you and your spouse are entitled to roughly an equal share of this property. Community debts or bills are generally any debt you and your spouse acquired during your marriage, no matter WHO spent the money. Separate property and/or separate debt is generally any property you had, or brought into the marriage. HOWEVER, there are exceptions to these statements. For example, some property acquired during the marriage is still considered separate property. For example, if you were involved in an automobile accident, and received damages for pain and/or suffering or will receive damages for pain and suffering, the money you received, or will receive, for pain and suffering is your separate property. If you have questions, or have a lot of community property or debt, you should speak with an attorney BEFORE filing your Petition or other papers.

5.a. COMMUNITY PROPERTY: If you and your spouse **do not** have any property from the marriage, check the first box. If you and your spouse **do** have property together, check the second box. If you checked the second box, you must tell the Court what property should go to you and what property should go to your spouse. Generally, the Court will divide the property 50-50 as of the time the Respondent was served with the Petition for Dissolution, unless there are good reasons why this should not happen. It is unlikely that the Court will give most, or all, of the property to either spouse, so put some thought into what you think would be a fair division before answering this question. Usually, if you and your spouse cannot decide which spouse should receive which property, the Court will order that the property be sold and any money received divided between you and your spouse.

First, list the property that you want the court to award to you, the Petitioner, and list the property that you want the court to award to your spouse, the Respondent. Put a check in the box that matches the property you want to go to which person. **You should describe the property thoroughly for identification purposes and state its value when asked.** You can use the brand name and model where applicable, and serial numbers.

Types of property:

- a) **Real Property (property (land) or home).** Check who you want to get the property. You can ask the court to give you the property (land/home), to give the property (land/home) to your spouse, or to sell the property (land/home) and divide the proceeds. You should write the complete address of the property under "Real Estate Located at." Most property has a legal description such as "LOT 77, PINE TREE ACRES, according to Book 111 of Maps," which appears on your deed papers. You should use this legal description. A cemetery plot is considered real property.
- b) **Household furniture.** This includes sofas, beds, tables, and so forth.
- c) **Household furnishings.** This includes things in the house **other than furniture**, for example: dishes, small appliances, rugs, and so forth.
- d) **Other.** List things that you want, or you want your spouse to have, that have not been listed.
- e) **Pension/retirement fund/profit sharing/stock plans/401K.** You and your spouse each generally have a right to a one-half interest in the other spouse's plan, based upon the length of your marriage. The longer the marriage, the greater your financial interest in your spouse's plan. (Your interest, usually, includes **up to** 50 percent of the benefits/plan if you have been married the whole time the plan has existed.) Check this box if you want to divide your interest in a retirement or profit sharing/retirement/401K plan.

If you check this box, you must see an attorney about a document called a Qualified Domestic Relations Order or QDRO. A QDRO is a very specialized legal document that requires professional assistance to prepare. The Self-Service Center and the court do not have Qualified Domestic Relations Order forms.

- f) **Motor vehicles.** List the vehicle identification number (VIN), the year and make of the car (Ford, Honda) and the model (Mustang, Lumina). Then state its estimated value.
- 5.b. **SEPARATE PROPERTY:** If **you did not** have property, or bring any property into the marriage, check the first box. If **your spouse did not** have or bring any property into the marriage, check the next box. If you or your spouse **did** have property and brought property into the marriage or if you or your spouse have separate property, check the third and/or fourth box. If you checked the third and/or fourth box, you must tell the court what property you brought into the marriage and what property your spouse brought into the marriage or what property is separate property. List the property that you want the court to award to you, the Petitioner, and list the property that you want the court to award to your spouse, the Respondent. Put a check in the box that matches the property you want to go to which person. You should describe the property thoroughly for identification purposes and state its value. You can use the brand name, model and serial numbers when applicable.
- 6.a. **COMMUNITY DEBTS:** If you and your spouse **do not** owe money on any debts from the marriage or **do not** owe community debt, check the first box and go directly to paragraph 7. If you and your spouse **do** owe money on any debts from the marriage or any community debt, check the second box. If you check the second box, tell the court which debts you should pay and which debts your spouse should pay. The court will attempt to make a fair division of the debts. If you get property that has a debt on it, you will probably also be given the debt. Ordering one person to pay all the debt(s) is unusual. Think about what is a fair division of the debts before answering this question. Provide enough information to accurately identify each debt.
- If you and your spouse have been separated and have acquired new debts on your own before filing for divorce, you may want the court to order that each of you personally pay for any new debt(s) incurred after the date you separated. You can make this request on the last page of your Petition under letter E "Community Debts."
- 6.b. **SEPARATE DEBTS:** If you and your spouse do not owe money on any debts incurred prior to the marriage, and do not have separate debt, check the first box and go directly to number 7. If you owe money on debts incurred prior to the marriage, or have separate debt, check the second box. If your spouse owes money on debts incurred prior to the time you were married, or has separate debt, check the third box. If either you or your spouse owe money on any debts you or your spouse brought into the marriage, or have separate debt, describe the debts, and tell the court which debts you should pay and which debts your spouse should pay.

INFORMATION ABOUT TAX RETURNS:

7. **Tax Returns:** Decide what you want to do about any income tax refund. Check the box if you want income taxes to be paid as stated. If you have questions, you should see a lawyer, an accountant, and/or contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

INFORMATION ABOUT SPOUSAL MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT (ALIMONY):

8. **Spousal Maintenance/Support (Alimony)** is the term used to describe money paid from one spouse to the other spouse as part of a divorce settlement. You may know the term as alimony or spousal maintenance. Spousal Maintenance/Support is designed as a safety net for a spouse who cannot provide for his/her needs or who meets other requirements listed on the Petition under paragraph 8. The idea behind spousal maintenance/support is that accomplishments during your marriage, including increases in earning potential and living standards, are shared, and earned, by **BOTH** parties to a marriage. Look at

paragraph 8 to see if spousal maintenance/support applies to you or your spouse. If spousal maintenance/support applies, check the box that **most** applies to you. If none of the boxes apply, or you **do not want** spousal maintenance/support, go to paragraph 9. Check all the boxes that apply to your situation. **Spousal maintenance/support is paid separately from child support and is NOT a substitute for child support.**

INFORMATION ABOUT PREGNANCY:

9. **Pregnancy.** If the wife **IS NOT** pregnant at this time, check the first box and go on. If the wife **IS** pregnant, check the second box. Fill out the date the baby is due, and fill in any information regarding the parents of the unborn child. **WARNING.** If the Petitioner and the Respondent are the parents of the unborn child, **STOP.** You must file a “**Petition for Dissolution of a Non-Covenant Marriage (Divorce) With Children.**”

REQUESTS TO THE COURT: This section requests that the court grant you and your spouse a divorce and tells the court other requests you are making:

- A. **DISSOLUTION (DIVORCE).** This is your request to end your marriage by a Divorce (Dissolution of Marriage).
- B. **NAMES.** Check this box if you want to use your maiden or former name. Write in your maiden name or former name in the space provided. If you are **not** the person requesting to have your former name restored, the court must have a written request from the party who wants his/her name restored in order to change the name.
- C. **SPOUSAL MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT.** This tells the court that you or your spouse should pay money to the other spouse on a monthly basis to help with living expenses. Check the first box if **YOU** (the Petitioner) will be paying spousal maintenance/support. Check the second box if **YOUR SPOUSE** (the Respondent) will be, or should be, paying spousal maintenance/support. If you or your spouse should not pay spousal maintenance/support, **do not** check either box, and **GO ON.** (You can check a box **only** if you checked the same box in the spousal maintenance/support section, paragraph 8.) If you request spousal maintenance/support, choose what you believe to be a reasonable monthly amount and tell the court how long the money should be paid. Base the amount of any request on the receiving party's need and the income of the party who will be paying this money. Spousal maintenance/support is **not** a substitute for child support.
- D. **COMMUNITY PROPERTY.** This tells the court that your division of the property is fair, and that the court should divide the property as requested by you in your Petition.
- E. **COMMUNITY DEBT.** This tells the court that your division of the debt is fair, and that the court should divide the debts as requested by you in your Petition. **IF YOU HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM YOUR SPOUSE FOR ENOUGH TIME THAT YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL DEBTS, WRITE THE DATE OF SEPARATION ON THE LINE PROVIDED IF YOU WANT EACH SPOUSE TO PAY THE DEBTS INCURRED AFTER YOU SEPARATED.**
- F. **SEPARATE PROPERTY.** This states that you will keep the property you owned before the marriage and/or after the Respondent was served with the Petition for Dissolution and that your spouse will keep the property he/she owned before the marriage and/or after the Respondent was served with the Petition for Dissolution.
- G. **OTHER ORDERS.** Tell the court anything else you may want ordered that has not been covered in your Petition.

OATH AND VERIFICATION OF PETITIONER:

Sign this form in front of a Clerk of the Superior Court or a notary public. By doing so, you are telling the Court that everything contained in the Petition is true, under penalty of perjury.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CONVERT HEALTH INSURANCE:

This is an important document that explains what to do about health care coverage for yourself and your children. Read it carefully, and be sure a copy is served with the other divorce papers on your spouse.

NOTICE REGARDING CREDITORS:

This is an important document that tells you and your spouse that you are **both** responsible for community debts to creditors **even though the court order or decree says that only one of you (either you or your spouse) are responsible**. This notice must be served on your spouse. In addition, read this notice to find out how to obtain information from your creditors about account balances.

DO NOT COPY
FILE THIS DOCUMENT

SELF-SERVICE CENTER

PROCEDURES: HOW TO FILE DIVORCE PAPERS WITH THE COURT

STEP 1: Complete the *"Family Court / Sensitive Data Coversheet Without Children"*.
(No copies needed).

MAKE 2 COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ONCE YOU HAVE FILLED THEM OUT:

- *"Summons"*
- *"Preliminary Injunction"*
- *"Petition for Dissolution of Marriage (Divorce) Without Minor Children"*
- *"Notice of Right to Convert Health Insurance"*
- *"Notice Regarding Creditors"*

STEP 2: SEPARATE YOUR DOCUMENTS INTO THREE (3) SETS:

SET 1 – ORIGINALS (For the Clerk): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>"Family Court / Sensitive Data Cover Sheet Without Children"</i>• <i>"Summons"</i>• <i>"Preliminary Injunction"</i>• <i>"Petition for Dissolution of Marriage (Divorce) Without Minor Children"</i>• <i>"Notice of Right to Convert Health Insurance"</i>• <i>"Notice Regarding Creditors"</i>	SET 2 – COPIES (For Spouse): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>"Summons"</i>• <i>"Preliminary Injunction"</i>• <i>"Petition for Dissolution of Marriage (Divorce) Without Minor Children"</i>• <i>"Notice of Right to Convert Health Insurance"</i>• <i>"Notice Regarding Creditors"</i>
SET 3 – COPIES (For You): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>"Summons"</i>• <i>"Preliminary Injunction"</i>• <i>"Notice Regarding Creditors"</i>• <i>"Petition for Dissolution of Marriage (Divorce) Without Minor Children"</i>• <i>"Notice of Right to Convert Health Insurance"</i>	

STEP 3: FILE THE PAPERS AT THE COURT:

FILE YOUR PAPERS at the Clerk of Court filing counters at one of the following locations: The Court is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. **You should go to the Court at least two hours before it closes.**

Clerk of the Superior Court
CENTRAL COURT BUILDING
201 West Jefferson, 1st floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Clerk of the Superior Court
SOUTHEAST COURT COMPLEX
222 East Javelina Avenue, 1st floor
Mesa, Arizona 85210

Clerk of the Superior Court
NORTHEAST COURT COMPLEX
18380 North 40th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85032

Clerk of the Superior Court
NORTHWEST COURT COMPLEX
14264 West Tierra Buena Lane
Surprise, Arizona 85374

FEES: A list of current fees is available from the Self Service Center and from the Clerk of Court's website at: <http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/>.

If you cannot afford the filing fee and/or the fee for having the papers served by the Sheriff or by publication, you may request a deferral (payment plan) when you file your papers with the Clerk of the Court. Deferral Applications are available at no charge from the Self-Service Center.

Hand all three (3) sets of your court papers to the Clerk along with along with the filing fee.

MAKE SURE YOU GET BACK THE FOLLOWING FROM THE CLERK:

- * Your Set of Copies
- * Your Spouse's Set of Copies

STEP 4: Read the packet called *"Service of Court Papers"* that applies to your situation at the Self-Service Center to find out how to serve the other party.